**WHEN GOD CRASHED THE PARTY**

**Daniel 5:1-31**

* **The sin of pride is rooted in the idea that “I am the sovereign ruler of my life and will live it how I choose for my own glory.”**
* **Whether someone repents and is restored or continues to reject God and is dealt with accordingly, God remains in complete control.**

**NO MOCKERY OF GOD IS HIDDEN FROM HIM**

* *“King Belshazzar held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine in their presence. 2 Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the gold and silver vessels that his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines could drink from them. 3 So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them. 4 They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.”* (Daniel 5:1-4)
* **There is nothing we do, say, or even think that can be hidden from our all-knowing, all-present God.**

**GOD WILL EXPOSE SIN AND MOCKERY**

* *“But you his successor, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this. 23 Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens. The vessels from his house were brought to you, and as you and your nobles, wives, and concubines drank wine from them, you praised the gods made of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or understand. But you have not glorified the God who holds your life-breath in his hand and who controls the whole course of your life. 24 Therefore, he sent the hand, and this writing was inscribed.”* (Daniel 5:22-24)
* **God not only sees the sins we think are hidden, but exposes them as well.**
* *“There is nothing covered that won’t be uncovered, nothing hidden that won’t be made known. 3 Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in an ear in private rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.”* (Luke 12:2-3)

**SIN AND MOCKERY WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDINGLY**

* *“This is the interpretation of the message: ‘Mene’ means that God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end. 27 ‘Tekel’ means that you have been weighed on the balance and found deficient. 28 ‘Peres’ means that your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.’*

*29 Then Belshazzar gave an order, and they clothed Daniel in purple, placed a gold chain around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 That very night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was killed, 31 and Darius the Mede received the kingdom at the age of sixty-two*.” (Daniel 5:26-31)

* **Because God is a holy and righteous God, He must judge sin and mockery accordingly.**
* *“Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has set a day when he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”* (Acts 17:30-31)
* **We avoid the judgement of God by walking in submission to His sovereign plans and purposes, beginning with our redemption through Christ.**

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does Daniel 5:1-31 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What is the main message of Daniel 5?
* How did Belshazzar “mock” God, and what was the result?

**Digging Deeper:**

* Why do you think we tend to view ourselves as “untouchable” or “indestructible” at times? How have you acted that way?
* What are some ways we might be “mocking God” today?
* What are some ways God warns and/or disciplines us? Why is God’s discipline a good thing?
* How does sin impact our ability to make wise decisions?
* What do you need to do differently as a result of this study?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the church office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule.